

PADDLE YOUR OWN CAMUS

if you want to watch philosophers in action,
take a whitewaterrafting trip.
the guides are well tanned and toned
practicing existentialists.
(don't let it throw you that some are
beautiful young women -- they are
capable of philosophy, too.)

ceaselessly, like Sisyphus, they happily
glide down the mountain only to
return -- never quite to the top --
and start anew, more than content
in their circular absurdity. maybe
they're happy because their
destiny is only seasonal. does any
philosophy work the year round?

COMMISSION

as soon as the news of the divorce spread
a call came from a real estate broker "friend."
condolences first, but what were our plans
for the house second, by a nose.
then a staccato of jokes new in realtyworld,
his pitch, and a willy loman vocal handshake.

but he left out a few things i consider
a friend might mention: his commission
being negotiable, hidden costs called "points,"
of which i did not get a favorable spread.

as escrow leans into the stretch,
the unforgettable taxi scene from On the Waterfront
comes back with greater poignancy:
Terry Malloy reminds his brother,
"Charley, you should've taken better
care of me." but then i also remember
that Terry was a former pug;
and while i'm not, i should have in my mind
by now the last warning from the referee
before the bell for round one:
"protect yourself at all times."

it just needs amending with "particularly
from friends who also sell real estate."